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AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN HOPEH PROVINCE, COMMUNIST CHINA

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AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION IN HOPEH PROVINCE, COMMUNIST CHINA

[Following is a translation of two articles from two issues of the Chinese-language newspaper Hopeh Jih-pao, Tientsin. Date of issue, page, and author, if any, are given under article headings.]

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I. HIGH-SPEED DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE: STRUGGLE BASICALLY TO
CHANGE
CHANGE THE APPEARANCE OF OUR PROVINCE'S AGRICULTURE AND REALIZE
THE START OF AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION WITHIN 3-5 YEARS

23 Feb 1960
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Yen Ta-kai

In 1958 and 1959 the people of our province, under the shrewd leadership of the party's central committee and Comrade Mao Tse-tung, achieved two successive years of big leaps forward, as did all areas of the country, and completed the major missions of the Second Five-Year Plan three years ahead of schedule, and allowed our socialist construction to begin to enter a new stage of high-speed development. During the past two years, the value of our province's industrial and agricultural output has more than doubled. Because of the great development of industry, especially the leaping development of the iron and steel industry and the machine industry, not only was the basis for our province's industrialization tremendously strengthened and the face of industry itself altered, but also, completely advantageous conditions were supplied for accelerating our province's agricultural technical reforms. Having gone through two years of the big leap forward in agriculture, our province has basically achieved self-sufficiency in grains; and especially due to the tremendous development of agricultural capital construction, our production conditions have been and are being changed tremendously. Even more important is the fact that people's communes have followed a path of robust development and have created extremely profitable conditions for maintaining the big leap forward and accelerating technical reforms in agriculture. Our condition at present is the fine condition of the building of socialism. Under this new situation, in order to advance the acceleration of socialist construction and hasten the all-round upsurge of the national economy, our urgent mission is to speed up agricultural development, to strive to change the face of our province's agriculture from scratch, and to realize the beginnings of agricultural modernization within three to five years. This is a huge historic mission for our province.

In order basically to change the appearance of our province's agriculture and realize the start of agricultural modernization within 3-5 years, it is necessary to take unswervingly as our basic guiding ideology, the principle of "With agriculture as the base, mutually combine the priority development of heavy industry with the speedy

development of agriculture". But this guiding ideology, especially about agriculture as the base and accelerating development of agriculture, is by no means completely understood in the thinking of the people; therefore it is entirely necessary to penetrate this thinking.

To promote industry and agriculture simultaneously, to combine the priority development of heavy industry with the speedy development of agriculture, with agriculture as the base and under the condition of giving precedence to the development of heavy industry -- this is a basic point of the general line, a proposal of Comrade Mao Tse-tung in summarizing the experiences of our nation's socialist construction, an important development in the political economics of Marxism-Leninism, and is the smooth road for our country's high-speed building of socialism. Comrade Mao Tse-tung pointed out in his 1955 report "Concerning the question of agricultural cooperativization" that; "If we can't basically solve the question of agricultural cooperativization within approximately the period of three five-year plans, that is advancing from small-scale operations using animal-drawn agricultural tools to large-scale operations using machinery.... then we will not be able to solve the contradiction between the year-by-year increase in demand for commercial goods, food, and industrial raw materials and the present very low output of major agricultural products. Our socialist industrialization endeavors will then encounter tremendous difficulties, and we will not be able to complete the socialist industrialization."

Therefore, accelerating the development of agriculture is definitely not only a question of agriculture, but certainly also is a question of solving the acceleration of the development of industry. Marx stated: The agricultural labor productivity which is in excess of the workers' individual needs is the foundation of all societies... This scientific classical theorem of Marx refers not only to class societies and to capitalist societies, but naturally also includes the socialist society. Politically, the question of the alliance of industry with agriculture is always a basic question of the entire revolutionary period and of the entire period of building socialism in our country. In the period of building socialism, how to handle our country's economic problems is directly related to this basic question. According to Comrade Mao Tse-tung's guiding thought, we must maintain this basic viewpoint of taking agriculture as the base and developing agriculture at a rapid pace during the entire period of the building of socialism. This is because:

If agriculture is developed rapidly then the needs of the people's livelihood can be satisfied better and industry can then be developed freely. Only by simultaneous growth of industry and agriculture can the balanced relationship between agriculture, light industry, and heavy industry be maintained exactly.

The high-speed development of agriculture will provide a greater supply of various kinds of raw materials for industry, will allow labor to transfer to industry, will expand the industrial market and the source of capital accumulation, and thereby ensure the development of light and heavy industry, and hasten the all-round upsurge of the national economy.

The high-speed development of agriculture will allow for an unceasing solidification of the alliance between industry and agriculture on a new foundation. At present, the people's communes are following a path of robust development; they will even further hasten the development of agricultural production. Moreover, the high-speed development of agriculture also will be advantageous in promoting the gradual transition of people's communes from the present system which is basically production brigades, to the commune system, and further to the system of all the people. Gradually it will cause the two classes of industrial workers and peasants to merge into one. Therefore, the high-speed development of agriculture is not merely a basic question of national production planning, but also is a basic question of solidification of the alliance of industry and agriculture on a new foundation.

Undertaking technical reforms in agriculture to gradually modernize agriculture -- this is a basic mission in the building of socialism and one of the most weighty and ambitious missions for the completion of our country's technical revolution. In accordance with the current foundation, conditions, and experience of our province's agricultural reforms, we should and certainly can achieve a basic change in the appearance of our province's agriculture within 3-5 years, on the foundation of the initial change which already exists, and gradually realize the beginnings of agricultural modernization. The most important aims in our demand for a basic change in the appearance of agriculture and the realization of the start of agricultural modernization include the following six areas.

- (1) Basically solve the water conservation problem and eliminate the calamities of droughts and floods;
- (2) Basically realize mechanization and partial electrification;
- (3) One pig per mou;
- (4) Open up 20 million mou of waste land, improve 30 million mou of poor land, change waste land into good fields, change low yields;
- (5) Institute garden-type farming and field management;
- (6) Attain a yield of more than 500 chin per mou for land sown to grains, with an average of more than 1000 chin per person (Other economic products also are to have similar developments).

Is it possible that we can realize the above demands within three to five years? We feel this is entirely possible.

Our concrete demands concerning the solution of the water conservation problem are: Basically to solve the flood problem within two years, basically to solve the problem of heavy rains within three years, and during the same period, to realize irrigation of agricultural fields and thus ensure against drought and flood the bountiful harvest of 100 million mou of our province. Is this possible? This is completely possible. Because of the foundation of the past several years of irrigation development, especially the past two years, our province's irrigation construction has advanced by leaps and bounds, and has achieved tremendous accomplishments. Because of the reconstruction of the six reservoirs--Kang-han, Huang-pi-chuang, Wang-k'uai, Hsi-ta-yang, Heng-shan-ling, and Mu-yun--and of some medium- and small-scale projects, several watercourses which constantly endanger us--the Hu-t'o River, Sha River, T'ang River, Tz'u River, and the ch'ao-pai River--have already been brought under our control. Last winter, we also started to reconstruct the reservoirs of Yoebh'eng, Yu-ch'iao, An-ko-chuang, and Yang-ho, all of which can be put into use this year to prevent floods. In this manner, the Chang River, Su-yun River, Chung-i-shui, and Yang River will be put under control. What remains to be developed are the Lo River, Chu-ma River, P'en-yang River and the minor engineering of other watercourses. After this autumn a start can be made on the reconstruction of these several rivers, and they can be finished next year and in 1962. During the past two years we have already completed so many projects, and controlled so many rivers, our technical forces have grown so, and our experience has become so rich that for these remaining projects, we only need to continue to apply ourselves to make it possible for them to be finished in a short period of time. This year we have already begun to solve the problem of swamping in the area south of the capital and north of Tientsin and in the area south of Tientsin. Next year and the following year the problem will begin to be tackled in other depressed areas where inundation occurs easily, and a network of rivers will gradually be realized. As for irrigation of agricultural fields, at present over the entire province the agricultural field irrigation area has reached more than 70 million mou, and in the next two or three years we will extend it to more than one hundred million mou. Therefore it is entirely possible to realize this objective.

It is possible to realize basic mechanization and partial electrification within 3-5 years? We feel this also is entirely possible. The speedy development of heavy industry has already armed agriculture with beneficial material conditions from a technical standpoint. If we only energetically develop the agricultural machinery industry, play up improvements of tools, steadfastly implement the scheme of promoting modern and indigenous methods jointly and promoting mechanization and semi-mechanization jointly, we certainly can basically achieve agricultural mechanization in three to five years. The iron and steel needed for the basic realization of agricultural mechanization in our province naturally is very great, but because of the results

of our two years of iron and steel big leaps forward, looking at the present production level in our province, it would be sufficient if we had about one third of this annual production. If there were machinery would the communes be able to buy it? If they just display a spirit of self-sufficiency, accurately control the relationship between savings and expenditures, they will have sufficient capital to purchase the machinery which they need. The people's commune operated by Wang Kuo-fan already basically realized mechanization and partial electrification; their investment was provided by two years' savings. If a mountainous region like the Wang Kuo-fan commune, whose production conditions formerly were certainly not considered good, can quickly realize agricultural mechanization, why can't other regions and other communes? It also is entirely possible for them. In order to accelerate the development of agricultural mechanization, the industrial front must greatly assist agriculture and greater, faster, better, and more economically supply modern machinery to agriculture; people's communes should make finer calculations, use all means to develop production, increase incomes, increase savings, and greatly foster technical manpower to meet the arrival of the upsurge of agricultural mechanization.

Is it possible to achieve a production of one pig per one mou of land within 3-5 years? Actually, the best reply has already been made. Right now our province already has two hsien (Cheng-ting, Ting) with 28 communes and 1860 production brigades, which have achieved one pig per person; and one hsien (Hsin-lo) with 18 communes and 957 production brigades, which has achieved one pig per mou of land. Also there are 176 production brigades which have attained two pigs per mou, and 27 production brigades which have attained three pigs per mou. These several hsien communes, and brigades are models for our development of pig production; some are situated on plains, some in mountainous areas, there is nothing special about their conditions. Like many areas such as Hsin-lo Hsien, where wind blows the sand, Fan-chia-ling in Tsun-hua Hsien was a very poor area in the past and was called "beggar ling". But it has already realized one pig per mou, increased the quantity of pigs, increased fertilizer, increased production, and the appearance of production has changed greatly. The key to its ability to make a speedy development in pig raising is its tremendous revolutionary enthusiasm, correct application of the policy of communal and private husbandry operating jointly with collective husbandry the main theme, undertaking reforms and technical innovations in husbandry equipment, implementing mechanization and semi-mechanization in the pig industry, and the correct solution of the problems of feed, disease prevention, and pig raising yards. The broad mass of the commune members all know the benefits of raising pigs, and now they also have plenty of experience; if we just continue to work and conscientiously carry out the operations, the target of one pig per mou will be possible to realize ahead of schedule. All places which are capable of raising pigs should raise many kinds of animals with

pigs as the main animal, and especially should give great emphasis to raising the production of large animals, and upholding the policy of walking on the two legs of mechanization and large animal production. Naturally, as we raise more pigs, and collect more fertilizer, we also must energetically develop production of chemical fertilizers and gradually increase use of chemical fertilizers in order to ensure a hasty rise in agricultural output.

Opening up 20 million mou of waste land and changing 30 million mou of poor land into good land within 3-5 years is a weighty mission, but conditions exist for its realization. If we can complete this mission, just this one, we then can increase production of grain by 12,100,000,000 chin, enough to supply the consumption of 5 or 6 cities like Tientsin. The principal waste lands of our province lie along the coast and rivers. After reservoirs of the various rivers have been developed, swamp land will be released. In the coastal areas we already have large-scale agricultural expanses; once the water problem is solved, these waste lands can become excellent paddy fields. The vast waste lands of the embankments of the north part of our province also can be opened up following the development of mechanization. Throughout the province there are over 30 million mou of poor cultivated land whose yield is very low; improvement of these lands is entirely possible. The Cheng village of Ning-chin Hsieu salt flat is a recent example. This village has over 2000 mou of land of which 1000 mou is sandy, salty soil and 700 mou is intensely salty. Through two years of effort, they changed this 1700 mou from poor land into good land. Last year the production of wheat was 280 chin per mou, a five-fold increase over production before improvement. This shows that if we just have the determination to improve on nature, the work of soil improvement and waste land reclamation is possible to complete. To institute garden type farming and field management to bring about a basically stable and high yield harvest within 3-5 years also is entirely possible. At present, throughout the province the area already in garden type farming and field management totals 40 to 50 million mu and there are a few hsien and communes whose entire land is already under field management and has attained a garden type level. Naturally a portion of this is the initial steps and still must be raised some. Garden type farming and field management production and development broke down the cultivation customs of small agriculture and guaranteed a high agricultural production. We must take it as an important item of the technical revolution and expand it more. An-kuo Hsien strove for two or three years and has realized garden type farming and field management over all the land of the hsien; other hsien can do it too. Following the large development of water conservation construction, following the large development of pig raising and fertilizer collecting, following the gradual development of agricultural mechanization, the time when all the cultivated land of the province will realize garden type farming and field management will not be slow in coming, but indeed will be very soon.

By realizing the above five measures, we will have basically changed the appearance of our province's agriculture and we then can produce 500 chin of grain per mou, or 1000 chin per person. Before this is achieved, water will be under our control, it will not be able to rampage freely again; and drought also will be basically overcome. The burdensome labor of agriculture will be replaced by machines and advanced techniques. Labor productivity will rise greatly; there will be great development in agriculture, forestry, grazing, subsidiary industries, and in fisheries. On this foundation, the material and cultural level of the lives of the people will rise greatly, all of our socialist production will obtain new conditions for onward development.

Struggle basically to change the appearance of our province's agriculture land to initiate the realization of agricultural modernization within 3-5 years--this is a mission of our province's people with great historical significance as socialist construction enters a new stage of high-speed development. We cherish great faith in this. Because of the results of the past two years of successive big leaps forward, strong material conditions have been created for basically changing the appearance of our province's agriculture and for realizing the start of agricultural modernization. Ideologically, organizationally, and experience-wise, an excellent foundation also was laid. Right deviationists have been opposed, enthusiasm has been stimulated, and the socialist education campaign has been developed intensively among the masses; the general line, the big leap forward, and people's communes have been taken to heart; the spirits of the masses are soaring, the activism of the socialist construction is having an unprecedented upsurge, and enthusiasm is greater and greater. This is a huge material force for hastening and guaranteeing the continued leap forward in 1960. People's communes which are a social organization also have gone along the road of development; their incomparable excellence and vitality are fully displayed time after time. This is an organizational assurance for accelerating the realization of agricultural modernization. Our experience is becoming richer and richer, we have a set of policies of walking on two legs, we have created the energetic work method of the mass line, and gradually a red and expert army of activist elements in the building of socialism is forming among the vast agricultural villages. If we just employ these experiences well and unceasingly create new experiences, our agricultural modernization construction certainly can be developed greatly quickly, well, and economically.

We must fully acknowledge the advantageous conditions for completing the historic mission of basically changing the appearance of our province's agriculture and realizing the beginnings of agricultural modernization within 3-5 years, and at the same time we must see the enormity of changing nature and reforming production. Of course we are likely to encounter various kinds of ideological stumbling blocks

and various kinds of difficulties. We must follow the directions of Comrade Mao Tse-tung by treating difficulties with contempt strategically and with respect tactically. We must adopt a conscientious attitude for treating each actual difficulty, create the necessary conditions, study appropriate methods, and overcome the difficulties one by one and group by group. In order to realize the mission of agricultural technical reforms in a planned, steady manner, each locality and each people's commune should conscientiously analyze its own situation and decide the concrete plans for its own district and commune for changing the appearance of agriculture and realizing agricultural modernization in accordance with the principle of "overall planning, relying on the masses, do the main things first, and accomplish things separately," and should organize mass discussions extensively and mobilize the broad masses to actively enter into this great battle.

In order to change from scratch the appearance of our province's agriculture and accelerate the realization of agricultural modernization within 3-5 years, it is necessary to raise high the banner of Mao Tse-tung's ideology, raise high the banners of the general line, big leap forward, and people's communes, strengthen party leadership, let politics take command, and oppose all kinds of right deviation. The experiences of two years of successive big leaps forward clearly show that if we can't achieve victory in the battle of two ideologies, two lines, and two roads, the high-speed development of the building of socialism would be considered impossible.

In order to change from scratch the appearance of our province's agriculture and accelerate the realization of agricultural modernization in 3-5 years, it is necessary to follow the road of "operate all endeavors diligently and frugally, and be self-sufficient," and to continue intensive development of the movement to study the Wang kuo-fan people's commune. All the people's communes of the province should be like the Wang Kuo-fan commune with determination, spirit, enthusiasm, and resolution. In this way the goals we have set up definitely can be realized.

In order to change from scratch the appearance of our province's agriculture and accelerate the realization of agricultural modernization in 3-5 years, it is necessary to maintain the free motivation of the masses, and play up the mass movement. Develop intensively the mass type technical innovations and technical revolution campaign, plant the red banner, set up models, compare the advanced, pursue the advanced, aid the backward, stimulate enthusiasm, strive upward, strive for the best, develop the collective wisdom of the vast masses, and make the mission of agricultural modernization construction progress even faster and better.

Let us, all the people of the province, unite together closely; industrial workers and peasants, join hands in the struggle to basically change the appearance of our province's agriculture and to realize the beginnings of agricultural modernization within three to five years.

II. PROMOTION OF TECHNICAL REFORMS IN AGRICULTURE

(Hopeh convenes a broadcast conference for support of agricultural technical reforms by financial and trade workers.)

25 Feb 60

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Unsigned article

The vast workers of our province's finance and trade system enthusiastically answered the call of the provincial committee to strive to make a fundamental change in the appearance of our province's agricultural production, to achieve the initial modernization of agriculture, and to develop the large area harvest campaign of "1000 chin of grain, 100 chin of cotton, and 10,000 chin of yams," and they have stimulated a mass-type campaign of support for the technical reforms of agriculture. In order to push this campaign to new heights and guarantee an all-round bumper harvest of this year's agricultural production, the financial department of the Hopeh provincial committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the provincial finance committee, and Hopeh People's Broadcasting Station held a broadcast conference of February 23 for support of the agricultural technical reform leap forward by all financial circles of the province. Financial workers and light industry cadres of various localities all over the province, numbering over 6,180,000 persons listened to the broadcast conference.

Comrade Wang Chin-shan, deputy governor of Hopeh Province and chairman of the provincial finance and trade committee spoke at the conference with the theme being "Raise high the red banner of the general line, completely support agricultural technical reforms, struggle to realize the 1960 all-round continued leap forward of the national economy." (Extracts of the speech are carried separately.)

The conference was opened by Comrade Hsu-Ming, deputy department chief of the Hopeh Province Finance and Trade Department. He said this is a conference to promote the leap forward, a conference to exchange experiences, and also a conference to expedite production, and a mobilizing conference for the struggle to realize a bumper harvest in 1960. He said that agriculture is the basis for developing the national economy, that expediting the swift development of agriculture is tremendously significant to socialist construction endeavors. The entire body of finance and trade workers must raise high the red banner of the general line, maintain politics in command, play up the mass campaign, completely support the high-speed development of industrial and agricultural production, open the way for agricultural technical reforms, and gain the first victory for agricultural reforms.

There were nine units at the conference introducing experiences. An-kuo Hsien's finance bureau chief Wang Yu-shan introduced the experience of financial organs assisting communes and production brigades to accelerate agricultural technical reforms. An-kuo Hsien's financial organs developed a magnificent campaign of support for agricultural technical reforms, relying on the party committee's "Ten help, ten tackle" method of help factory construction by tackling raw materials, help innovations by tackling the keys, help production by tackling consumption, help calculations by tackling the system, help contests by tackling judging, help subsidiary industries by tackling income, help the poor by tackling the plan, help water conservation by tackling tools, help animal production by tackling pig raising, help welfare by tackling dining halls, and developed a splendid campaign of support for agricultural technical reforms. Up to now, already assistance has been given the commune and brigades for new construction of pig raising yards, and for 1178 workshops for locally produced chemical fertilizers, iron and wood, sugar-making, etc., 2109 kinds of operations have been developed, income has increased by 16,240,000 yuan, and means have been found for providing a lot of capital for accelerating agricultural technical reforms in the communes. Huo Pin-hai, deputy director of the P'ingshan county branch of the Chinese People's Bank, introduced the experience of close cooperation between industry, commerce, finance and banking in the all-out support of technical reforms in agriculture. He stated: The P'ing-shan Hsien branch bank, under the unified leadership of the hsien committee, and acting in accordance with the spirit of producing and supplying that which is lacking, created one coupling (coupling of agriculture with commerce and with transportation) by cooperation with industry, commerce and finance, two unifies (a unified allocation of national capital along with the capital of the masses), three advances (send capital in advance, send production supplies in advance, and put them into service in advance), and from all angles devised means to raise capital for supporting the technical reforms of agriculture. The savings of the individual commune members in the hsien reached 3,175,000 yuan, an average of 11.5 yuan. Chang Chung-yun, chief of the Commerce Bureau of Wu-ch'ing Hsien stated at the conference: The commercial workers of Wu-ch'ing Hsien in a spirited and determined manner, from the beginning of the year until February 5, helped the masses build and improve diesel engines, gasoline engines, grinders, fertilizer carts, etc.: 64 kinds of new type equipment totaling 25,000 items. They assisted the brigades in organizing more than 15000 technicians, trained 362 technical hands, and supplied a great deal of water conservation tools, industrial raw materials, and fuel. Using the ten word method of "produce, develop, utilize, improve, substitute, save, distribute, repair, search, summarize," they actively assembled cargoes, prepared 9,730,000 yuan worth of production materials which was 113% of the planned need for the first half of the year, and when something was needed they supplied it. Also introducing

experiences at the conference were comrades from such units as the Commercial Bureau of Nei-ch'iu Hsien, the Finance Bureau of Ming-chin Hsien, the Finance Bureau of Ye-ch'eng Hsien, the Commerce Bureau of Ch'ing-lung Hsien, and the Loan office of Hsi-chin village of Ting Hsien.

During the course of the conference, various trade and finance workers throughout the province made long distance phone calls, and sent telegrams and letters totaling over 2500, welcoming the victorious opening of the broadcast conference by reporting the new accomplishments achieved in supporting agricultural technical reforms. Furthermore, there were more than 4860 units with more than 38,500 finance and trade workers who expressed their determination to support agricultural technical reforms.

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